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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/578,852	07/05/2007	Takayuki Suzuki	06-04-2799	5046

7590
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EXAMINER

SAVANI, AVINASH A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3749

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/18/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/578,852	Applicant(s) SUZUKI ET AL.	
	Examiner AVINASH SAVANI	Art Unit 3749	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 May 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☒ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/17/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Adams et al [6488492].

3. With respect to claim 1, Adams et al discloses: An igniter (2) comprising an igniter body (4) provided with a liquefied gas reservoir (11), and a rod-like extension (101) which extends from the igniter body and has a flame port [see FIG 1] ejecting gas flame therethrough on the leading end thereof, wherein the base portion of the rod-like extension is supported for rotation with respect to the igniter body so that the angle made between the igniter body and the rod-like extension can be changed to change the direction of the flame port in a free state and locked when the igniting action is to be done [see FIG 10, col 12, line 16-32]. From figure 10, the rotation aspect of the invention is seen, and the locking capabilities is understood when the disclosure refers to the interaction of a cam assembly and grooved portions to receive a follower end of the cam assembly.

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4. With respect to claim 2, Adams et al discloses: An igniter (2) as defined in Claim 1, in which base portion of the rod-like extension having a ring portion (108) is inserted for rotation into a holding portion (104) of the igniter body having an annular guide portion (113) so that the angle made between the igniter body and the rod-like extension can be changed in a free state [col 11, line 14-39]. From the disclosure it is seen that the rod like exstension is pivotally coupled at element (108), wherein it is understood that the angle is changeable in a free state.

5. With respect to claim 3, Adams et al discloses: An igniter (2) as defined in Claim 1 or 2, in which the igniter body is further provided with a lock lever (62) for locking the igniting action in the free state [col 13, line 3-17].

6. With respect to claim 4, Adams et al discloses: An igniter (2) as defined in Claim 3, in which a part of the lock lever (62) interferes with a part of the rod-like extension, when the lock lever is operated to release the lock, to fix the angle between the igniter body and the rod-like extension [col 13, line 3-17]. It is understood here that after 40°, the lock is released, and the cam follower end (122) will engage in a detent (134) to fix the angle between the lighter body and the rod-like extension. The interaction of the lock lever (62) with the rod like extension is seen from figure 10, wherein there are multiple elements coupled between the lock lever and the rod-like extension.

7. With respect to claim 5, Adams et al discloses: An igniter (2) as defined in Claim 1 or 2 further comprising a tension member (128), which urges the rod-like extension to one direction with respect to the igniter body [col 13, line 55-64]. It is understood that the member (128) urges the rod-like extension to one direction, since it follow logically

that applying a force against the member (128) will actuate the rod-like member to rotate.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adams et al ['492], further in view of Davini [4300198].

10. With respect to claims 6 and 7, As stated in the explanation to claim 1, Adams et al discloses an ignitor (2) with an ignitor body (4), a liquefied fuel reservoir (11), a rod-like extension (101), a locking mechanism or mechanism for preventing rotation [col 12, line 16-32], and a ring portion used for rotation (108) [col 11, line 14-39]. Adams et al however does not disclose a balancing weight, which is understood to hold the rod-like extension in a horizontal position relative to the movement of the ignitor body. Davini teaches a similar concept that uses types of weights in a pivotal connection to secure an arm of a robot in a horizontal position relative to the supporting shaft [col 6, line 50-68]. With respect to claim 7, then, it is understood that the balance mechanism is positioned on the rod-like extension and the arm (92) can balance in a horizontal positioned in a free state [see FIG 11, col 7, line 10-24]. In view of Davini, the balancing device (103) maintains a horizontal level of the arm relative to a support via a pivotal connection. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time

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of the invention to have such a balancing means because the technique to do so was known to one of ordinary skill, yielding the predictable result of maintaining a horizontal position.

11. With respect to claim 8, Adams et al discloses an igniter (2) as defined in Claim 7, in which the mechanism for preventing the rotation (116) of the rod-like extension comprises a lock lever (62), which interferes with a part of the base portion of the rod-like extension to prevent rotation thereof [col 13, line 3-17].

12. With respect to claim 9, Adams et al discloses an igniter (2) as defined in Claim 8, in which the lock lever locks (62) the igniting action of the rod-like extension in a free state [col 13, line 3-17]. The disclosure suggests that since the depressing action of the lighting actuation is prohibited, that the lock lever (62) prevents ignition in a free state, as it is seen that the rotation mechanism is still operable.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent number 4028968 issued to DeAmicis teaches a distributor adjustment tool which utilizes a rigid ring (16') to keep the extended arm in a horizontal position relative to the movement of the handle [col 3, line 3-13]. Although the use of weights to balance a rod in a horizontal position is not used, the idea of balancing the rod in a horizontal position is seen, and it is believed that one of ordinary skill would recognize the different options to carry out the function.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AVINASH SAVANI whose telephone number is

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(571)270-3762. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday, alternate Fridays off, 7:30-5 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven McAllister can be reached on 571-272-6785. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Avinash Savani/
Examiner, Art Unit 3749

/Steven B. McAllister/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3749

/A. S./
8/6/08